

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A telephone set configured for use with a private branch exchange system and a voice mail system, comprising:
 - a) a housing having an upper surface;
 - b) a dialing interface mounted in the housing, the dialing interface being in communication with a call management interface of the private branch exchange system;
 - c) a plurality of dialing keys arranged in a dialing grid at the housing upper surface and operably connected to the dialing interface; and
 - d) a voice message alert and retrieval device, comprising a message key operably connected to the dialing interface, and a light source that causes emission of a visible light from the message key, wherein the dialing interface generates a message retrieval control signal in response to activation of the message key to deliver voice mail messages from the voice mail system to a user of the telephone set, and wherein the light source is responsive to a voice message waiting signal generated by the call management interface,
the message key having a distinct visual impression, apart from its emission of visible light, compared to its adjoining keys.
2. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the message retrieval control signal comprises a predetermined series of dialing digits.
3. (Original) The telephone set of claim 2, further comprising a memory in operable connection with the dialing interface, wherein the memory stores data corresponding to the predetermined series of dialing digits for initiating the message retrieval control signal.
4. (Original) The telephone set of claim 3, further comprising a central processing unit operably connected to the dialing interface, the memory, and the call management interface.
5. (Currently Amended) The telephone set of claim 1, further comprising a speaker mounted in the housing to deliver the voice mail messages to the user wherein the call management interface comprises a private branch exchange.

6. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the dialing interface generates a dual tone multifrequency signal.

7. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the telephone set and the call management interface are connected by a telephone line.

8. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the message key comprises one of the plurality of dialing keys.

9. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the message key comprises a touch-sensitive button.

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cont
10. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the message key comprises a membrane switch.

11. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the message key comprises a graphical icon.

12. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the light source is located directly beneath the message key.

13. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the light source comprises a light emitting diode.

14. (Original) The telephone set of claim 13, wherein the light emitting diode is mounted below an upper surface of the message key.

15. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the light source comprises a light emitting diode and a light pipe assembly.

16. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the light source comprises a matrix display assembly.

17. (Original) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the light source comprises a liquid crystal display element.

18. (Currently Amended) A telephone set, comprising:

- a) a housing;
- b) a dialing interface mounted in the housing;
- c) a plurality of dialing keys attached to the housing and operably connected to the dialing interface;
- d) a transceiver electrically connected to the dialing interface and in communication with a call management interface;
- e) a voice message alert and retrieval device attached to the housing, comprising a message key operably connected to the dialing interface, and a light source that causes emission of a visible light from the message key, wherein the dialing interface generates a message retrieval control signal in response to activation of the message key, and wherein the light source is responsive to a voice message waiting signal generated by the call management interface and received through the transceiver;
- f) a transmitter attached to the housing and electrically connected to the transceiver; and
- g) a receiver attached to the housing and electrically connected to the transceiver, wherein a single action of a user of activating the message key causes messages to be retrieved and played through the receiver, and wherein the message key presents presenting a distinct visual impression, apart from its emission of visible light, compared to its adjoining keys.

19. (Currently Amended) A voice message indicator for a telephone, the voice message indicator comprising:

- a light source that emits light when a voice message is waiting,
- a first key that, when manipulated by a user of the telephone, causes transmission of a message retrieval signal to cause voice mail messages to be provided to a user of the telephone, and
- a plurality of additional keys, wherein one or more of the additional keys is located adjacent to the first key, and the first key is visually distinct from its adjacent keys other than by its emission of light, and
- wherein the light source emits light through ~~is physically integrated with~~ the key.

20. (Currently Amended) A telephone comprising:
a message indicator light; and
a message access key, wherein the light is integrated with the key, the key comprising an upper surface that is substantially exclusively transparent ~~whose substantial entirety emits light from the message indicator light;~~

a telephone speaker that provides audible access to one or more voice messages stored on a central voice messaging system located remotely from the telephone, wherein activation of the message access key causes the one or more voice messages to be output on the telephone speaker.

21. (Previously Amended) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the message key has a visibly different shape than its adjoining keys.

22. (Currently Amended) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the message key is spaced apart from each of its one or more adjoining keys by a distance that differs from the spacing between each of the one or more ~~the~~ adjoining keys and a ~~its~~ next adjoining key of each of the one or more adjoining keys.

23. (Currently Amended) The telephone set of claim 1, wherein the message key is spaced apart from ~~at least one of its adjoining keys~~ a first key adjoining the message key by a distance that differs from ~~the~~ a distance between the adjoining first key and its next adjoining a second key adjoining the first key. --

[Please add claims 24-26 as follows:]

24. (New) The telephone of claim 20, wherein the telephone communicates with the central messaging system through a private branch exchange.

25. (New) The telephone of claim 24, wherein the message indicator light is powered from a telephone line connecting the telephone to the private branch exchange.

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Cont 26. (New) The telephone of claim 25, further comprising a visual display that provides information about call status.
